



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Washington, D.C. 20460

OCT 26 2016

OFFICE OF  
GENERAL COUNSEL

Mr. Chris Hamby  
Buzzfeed News  
1630 Connecticut Avenue NW, 7th Floor  
Washington, DC 20009

Re: FOIA Request HQ-FOI-2014-001784

Dear Mr. Hamby:

On behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), I am writing to complete our response to the above-referenced Freedom of Information Act request. Thank you for your patience in awaiting the production of the full record set. In your request, you sought information related to certain EPA employees who are engaged in outside activity, whether or not compensated, as experts, consultants or advisors to any firm, non-governmental entity or any other entity in any legal or regulatory context or with respect to public health in general. We understood your request as including experts, expert witnesses, consultants, or otherwise in any of the scientific fields, such as serving as economists, toxicologists, chemists, biologists, medical doctors, etc. We further understood that you sought all documentation related to such requests for outside activity, granting or denial of requests, for employees at the GS 14 and GS 15 level, as well as for SES employees, senior level/scientific or technology level (SL/ST) employees, and Title 42 employees throughout the Agency.

Enclosed please find the final response to your request. As you have discussed with Jeanne Duross and Alan Margolis of EPA's Office of General Counsel, the records you requested are covered by the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552a (1974). We are releasing records to you that have been redacted pursuant to FOIA Exemption 6, which requires EPA to withhold information about individuals in personnel and medical files and similar files when the disclosure of such information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

This letter concludes our response to your request. You may appeal this response by email at [hq.foia@epa.gov](mailto:hq.foia@epa.gov), or by mail to the National Freedom of Information Office, U.S. EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. (2822T), Washington, DC 20460. Only items mailed through the United States Postal Service may be delivered to 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue. If you are submitting your appeal by hand delivery, courier service, or overnight delivery, you must address your correspondence to 1301 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Room 6416J, Washington, DC 20001. Your appeal must be in writing, and it must be received no later than 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. The Agency will not consider appeals *received* after the 90-calendar-day limit.

Appeals received after 5:00 pm Eastern Time will be considered received the next business day. The appeal letter should include the FOIA tracking number listed above. For quickest possible handling, the subject line of your email, the appeal letter, and its envelope, if applicable, should be marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." Additionally, you may seek dispute resolution services from EPA's FOIA Public Liaison at [hq.foia@epa.gov](mailto:hq.foia@epa.gov) or (202) 566-1667, or from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways: by mail, Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8610 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001; email, [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone, (301) 837-1996 or (877) 684-6448; or fax, (301) 837-0348.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Justina Fugh", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Justina Fugh  
Senior Counsel for Ethics

Enclosures